GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:311
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2000
TERRORISTS TRAINING CAMPS
RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether terrorists in Kashmir are directly confronting the army by attacking them at their headquarters;

(b) whether American official sources have confirmed Bin Laden's involvement in terrorist activities in Kashmir;

(c) whether terrorists training camps are established in Pakistan occupied Kashmir, Pakistan and in Afghanistan;

(d) whether international law permits attack on such hostile camps;

(e) if so, whether the Government have any plans of dislodging such camps by using force or at least warning the concerned Governments for a strong action against them; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 311 FOR 16.3.2000.

Terrorists have physically attacked certain establishments of Rashtriya Rifles and the army in six incidents. A total number of 17 terrorists were involved in these attacks. All of them were killed.

The US authorities are aware of the links between Osama Bin Laden and Pakistan-based terrorist groups.Testifying before a US Congressional Committee in Washington on 2nd February 2000, the Director of Central Intelligence Agency confirmed that, Osama Bin Laden was providing substantial support to extremist groups operating in Jammu & Kashmir. Government are aware that in addition to those in Pakistan, training camps of these groups have been established in Pakistan occupied Kashmir and Afghanistan.

International law provides for the right to legitimate self-defence. Government have been appropriately and effectively bringing to the attention of the international community, Pakistan's role in sponsoring cross-border terrorism and its attempts to interfere in the internal affairs of India. The international community recognises Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism and its impact on the security of countries in the region. Government have also apprised the international community of our firm resolve to take all necessary measures to preserve security and territorial integrity of the country.